The Highlander

Thursday July 10 2025 | Issue 697

INSIDE: HALIBURTON GRASSROOTS SOCCER KICKS OFF PAGE 16 **FREE**

Carter Pearn takes part in the Dorset Kids Fishing Derby July 5. See more on page 13. *Photos by Ryan Roediger.*

Bill Burden 'irreplaceable'

By Lisa Gervais

Cori Burden said she and brother, Chad, are still learning about the impact their father, Bill Burden, had on the West Guilford community.

The long-time owner of the West Guilford Shopping Centre will be remembered July 16 at the community centre.

Cori, in an interview with *The Highlander*, relayed some of the stories she and Chad had heard over the years.

"Your dad gave us free diapers so we could get through the winter when we were going through hard times; your dad fed us until my dad got a job; my dad was an alcoholic, so your dad made sure our family was okay. I even had someone say your dad paid my hydro bill until I got back on my feet. Unbelievable stories," Cori said.

She added Bill wouldn't want anybody to know he was helping someone out. "He was very genuine and very private." The stories have rounded out her understanding of not just her dad, but the man as a store owner and human being.

Continued **'Sawyer'** on page 2

From Haliburton to the rainforest

By Lisa Gervais

Nathan Lowe is asked about the highlight of his recent Make-A-Wish trip to Costa Rica, but the 11-year-old Haliburton boy cannot single out one thing.

"All of it," he says, while seated at the dining-room table of his home, with older brother Zach, mom Desiree, and dad, Brad.

Nathan was diagnosed with congenital heart disease before he was even born, and has faced more medical challenges than most people do in a lifetime, including undergoing multiple surgeries, and living under constant care.

Nathan's family applied and were accepted for Make-A-Wish. He got to choose the destination, but the family agreed with his pick. Desiree and Brad had been to Costa Rica before, so Nathan had heard about their adventures. His folks had told him about ziplining and visiting volcanoes.

He was attracted to the rainforest and the wildlife.

"I just thought that would be a cool place to go," he said.

Desiree said Nathan has wanted to go ziplining for a long time, was keen to see a volcano, and sink into the natural hot springs, as he loves to be in warm water.

It wasn't Nathan's first rodeo. He's been on airplanes before, to Saint Martin, Texas, the Dominican Republic, Punta Cana. However, it was his first time in the cockpit of a WestJet plane, and he and his family's presence was announced on the flight.

They stayed at Montana De Fuego Hotel and Spa, in La Fortuna village, overlooking the Arenal volcano.

They took a gondola above the

Continued **'Family'** on page 3

Highlander news

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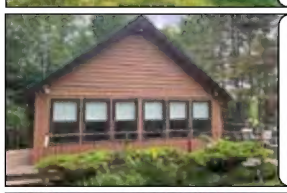

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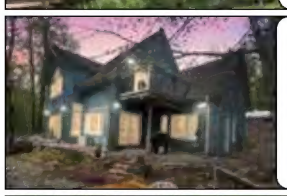

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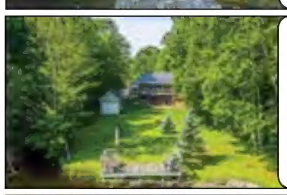

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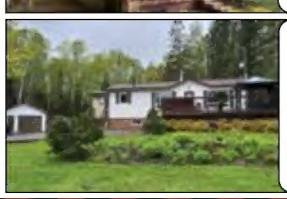

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SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

Bill Burden was named Citizen of the Year for West Guilford in 2017. *File.*

Sawyer: 'you couldn't get a nicer guy'

Continued from page 1

It all made sense though since Bill had a "love thy neighbour" approach, his daughter added.

Bill was also "all about family; loyalty to family; stick together no matter what, right or wrong, you support and love in any obstacle we come across…we do it together."

She said the man at home was very much the man in the store; calm, caring, quiet, and not easily angered. She said she and Chad would seek his advice. He would play devil's advocate but always leave them to make their own decisions.

Cori said Bill also loved family trips, remembering him taking her daughter to Disneyland. "His back was bad but he never complained. He walked around that park with a sore back, holding my daughter's hand, making sure she had a princess dress.

"What a great life and legacy. He was generous, loved his customers and staff like family and loved my mom (Edna, who passed away in May 2024)."

She added she and Chad will carry on that legacy out of respect for their dad; raising their children to work hard, and love their neighbours.

Burden was named West Guilford citizen of the year in 2017, saying at the time, "I'm proud to be a resident of West Guilford." Bill and Edna became the fourth proprietors of the iconic store in 1983.

Chris Chumbley started working with Bill in 2002.

"If you were a local person that was the place to go to work in the summer," Chumbley said.

He added Bill would also sell products from local artists and entrepreneurs to help them out. He also assisted with community events.

Reflecting on 23 years at the store, Chumbley said, "working that close with him and having him trust me to do certain things … it's an honour. I basically learned everything from him. I have done everything in that store at one point or another, all learning from him how to do things."

> *"He's irreplaceable, that man. He knew every cottager, he knew every local. You couldn't get a nicer guy.*
>
> ***Carm Sawyer***

He described Bill as "very friendly. He loved a good laugh. It was very rare to see him get cross. He was always happy. Everything was focused on the store, then the kids, and the grandkids, and hockey – everyone stopped in to talk to him about hockey. And he was so happy to see the cottagers come back every year."

Dysart et al coun. Carm Sawyer said Bill, "was a great friend and he was an absolute gentleman to our community. He did everything he could for anybody. He treated everybody just unbelievably well. For anything at the community centre, he supported. He supported everybody. He's irreplaceable, that man. He knew every cottager, he knew every local. You couldn't get a nicer guy."

A memorial visitation will be held at the West Guilford Community Centre, 1061 Kennisis Lake Rd., West Guilford, on Wednesday, July 16, from noon until the time of tributes at 2 p.m.

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Highlander news

Nathan Lowe in the rainforest of Costa Rica. *Submitted.* Inset: The Lowe family, left to right, Brad, Nathan, Desiree, and Zach. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Family now giving back

Continued from page 1

rainforest to start a zipline at 70 km/hr for a kilometre.

They visited sloths. "One, they're slow," Nathan said. "Two, they're cute."

The river hot springs were also a splash.

Zach said going with his younger brother and mom and dad on the trip "was a lot of fun, the food was good, too."

Desiree and Brad said Nathan commented many times on the trip, "I can't believe my wish is coming true."

Meets hockey heroes

Nathan said his heart condition slows him down, but he doesn't think about it much. He makes regular visits to clinics at Sick Kids, not just cardiology. He's on Warfarin.

Brad said, "we have to tell him to pump the brakes for some things. It's hard for him to understand and hard for us to do, but sometimes the risk isn't worth the reward."

He loves hockey but can't play, though does tai kwon do and jiu-jitsu. He's a blue belt.

He has also had an opportunity, though MLSE, to visit the Toronto Maple Leafs dressing room a couple of times. He has a custom jersey, magnetic stall name tag, and all kinds of memorabilia in his room. On one visit, he handed out signed Nathan Lowe hockey cards to the amusement of the blue and white, and appeared on Leafs Blueprint.

This trip was special, though. Desiree said, "just seeing him walk through all the steps; just getting to do things that he had wanted to do, that he had been wishing for, and it was all coming true. That was amazing.

"He kept saying, 'I can't believe this, I'm so happy to be doing this with my family. I can't believe my dream came true'... all these sentimental, beautiful things. Just knowing it was really impacting him, that meant a lot. He carries it, we all carry it with us … it was really meaningful."

And, now, the family is giving back. They've signed up for some volunteer shifts for Make-a-Wish at the July 18-20 Toronto Honda Indy.

"The fact they have enough money and they're a non-profit organization blows my mind," Nathan says.

Brad adds, "it's an honour to give back to such an amazing organization. That's something we'll never stop; we'll do it all the time."

As an independently-operating affiliate of Make-A-Wish International, Make-A-Wish Canada is part of the network of the world's leading children's wish-granting organization. They serve children in every community in Canada, and in 50 countries worldwide. Make-A-Wish Canada has granted more than 40,000 wishes over the past 40 years with 2,011 of them last year alone. Learn more at makeawish.ca

Highlander news

OPP BRIEFS

Downtown tagging

Haliburton Highlands OPP is investigating a series of vandalism strikes in Haliburton village in recent weeks.

Since June 27, five vehicles, one business and a sign, in the downtown have been spraypainted in repeated acts of mischief. Police say the incidents have occurred on multiple occasions, with investigators believing there may be witnesses or individuals with information that could assist in identifying those responsible.

Among those impacted was Jenn Emmerson, owner of BAO Beauty Clinic at 218 Highland St. She told *The Highlander* her store fell victim the Friday of the long weekend.

"It could have been worse, but it was very discouraging to see," she said.

Haliburton Highlands OPP Cst. Rob Adams said he saw pictures of the damage and there wasn't any specific pattern or tagging. He notes no arrests have been made.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 1-888-310-1122 or do so anonymously by contacting Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. Reports can also be filed online at www.ontariocrimestoppers.ca.

Kinmount incident

Kawartha Lakes OPP is still looking for three suspects who attempted a robbery in Kinmount June 30.

At approximately 5 p.m., officers responded to a business on County Road 121 in the downtown following reports of a botched hold-up. Police confirmed no one was hurt during the incident, with the men fleeing the scene empty-handed in a blue Honda Civic before officers arrived.

The first suspect was approximately six-foot tall and wearing construction orange pants and a jacket, with a black hoodie underneath, black ski mask covering the face, gloves and white sneakers with black stripes.

The three suspects involved in a botched robbery attempt in Kinmount June 30. *Photo courtesy of the OPP.*

The second suspect is believed to be white and wore an identical outfit to the first, with black-only sneakers. The third suspect was wearing grey pants, black sweater with a pink design on the chest and a small crown on the hoodie, a construction vest over the sweater, black gloves and a black ski mask with white writing on the side.

If you were in Kinmount between 4:30 and 5:20 p.m. and have any relevant footage, contact police at 1-888-310-1122, or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. *(OPP briefs compiled by Mike Baker).*

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Meals on ice

For the next six months, the Dorset Recreation Centre will serve as a pick-up spot for Algonquin Highlands residents enrolled in the Muskoka Seniors Meals on Wheels program.

Chris Card, the township's parks, recreation and trails manager, told council during a June 19 meeting that the organization was requesting use of freezer space at the facility to hold some meal orders on delivery days for clients who live too far off its usual delivery route.

In a letter to council, Michele Cutler, program coordinator, said deliveries will occur twice per month, on Thursdays, with meals stored until they're picked up by clients, "typically on the same day or the following day." She noted the program recently expanded to cover Dorset, which borders Algonquin Highlands and Lake of Bays, with five people enrolled so far.

Cutler said the program is designed to provide affordable and nutritious meals to people struggling to access, prepare or pay for healthy foods. Frozen entrees cost $7 per meal, with soups and desserts at $2.25 each.

All meals are prepaid prior to delivery, meaning township staff won't be required to handle money.

Coun. Sabrina Richards raised concerns about liability, asking if the township would be on the hook should the freezer break down and meals spoil. Card said he would get an answer from insurance.

Council opted to support a six-month trial. Anyone interested in enrolling in the program can call 705-789-6676 or email mealsonwheels@muskokaseniors.org.

Tree clearing

Public works director Adam Thorn says a plan to cut down trees on 12-14 acres of land around Stanhope Municipal Airport could cost the township around $630,000.

Thorn said an airspace survey of the area, conducted by Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) in 2024, identified four locations equaling 65 acres where obstacles, particularly tree growth, pose potential safety concerns for planes taking off from, and landing, at the Stanhope facility.

After following up with Avia NG Airport Consultants, Thorn said there was immediate concern over 12-14 acre strips to the east and west of the airport's runway.

"It causes a serious safety concern if we allow the trees to keep growing and we don't cut them down right away," Thorn said. After mayor Liz Danielsen asked if it could impact the designation of the airport, Thorn added, "it limits the length of our runway. We're at 2,500 feet, that's the landing space planes can [utilize]. With the trees being so tall… in theory, it could knock our runway down to 1,800 feet, which then limits the types of planes that can come to us."

Thorn estimated the cost of clearing at approximately $50,000 per acre, with council approving the project.

Earlier in the meeting, coun. Lisa Barry asked about the township making an official request to the County to start contributing financially to the airport. Danielsen said the upper tier used to help, but ceased payments several years ago when discussions started about constructing a new runway.

She said since the re-establishment of the economic development committee and arrival of current CAO Gary Dyke, the County may be open to helping again.

"There is some more recognition… of the value of the airport to the overall community," Danielsen said, though believed her council needed to discuss airport costs more before making an official request to the County. *(Algonquin Highlands briefs compiled by Mike Baker).*

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

July 31- Regular Council Meeting
August 14 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

Don't miss the final few days of *Mountain Lake at a Glance – The Hidden Nature of Paint*, an exhibit by Gord Peteran, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until July 12. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

Boathouse Studio Student Show and Sale will take place at the Cultural Centre on Saturday, July 12 from 10 am – 4 pm.

The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open for the season! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am, Tuesday to Saturday. Coming up this week: Thursday – Heritage baking workshop, Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone, Saturday – Crafty hands bookmark making. We are open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

The Agnes Jamieson Gallery will be closed to the public on July 15 & 16 for exhibit installation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DAY

Mark your calendars for our next HHW day taking place Saturday, July 19, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Please ensure you have your valid waste disposal card. For full details and a list of accepted items, please visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

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Highlander news

Proposed OP changes spark controversy

By Mike Baker

Greg Bishop, a County-based Ontario land surveyor, has warned Dysart et al council against making changes to the township's official plan (OP) and zoning bylaw to allow certain structures on private property three metres from the water.

Speaking at a July 8 public meeting, Bishop said he's studied every shoreline on every lake in the municipality during his 30-plus year career, noticing one consistent problem across all waterbodies – erosion.

"I've seen shorelines taken away by 20-30 metres… Loon Lake used to have a half-acre island in it. It's gone," he said, noting dams installed in the early 1900s as part of the Trent-Severn Waterway have taken a toll, "changing our whole environment."

The township is seeking feedback on plans to adapt its OP and zoning bylaw, which would open the door for lakefront residents to install any one of a gazebo, shed or sauna overlooking the water providing it's at least three metres away from shore. Current setbacks are 20-30 metres.

The proposal outlines structures should be restricted to a maximum floor area of 15 sq. metres and three-and-a-half metres tall.

While some members of council have spoken about wanting to lift restrictions on what people are allowed to do with their property, Jim Prince, a member of the Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association, said he believed the proposal was akin to using "a sledgehammer, trying to fix a small problem."

Greg Bishop, left, was critical of proposed changes to Dysart's official plan and zoning bylaw. *File.*

Bishop added, "I guarantee you 30 years from now the buildings, should you choose to approve them and if the setback is [three] metres, they'll be on the water's edge. They'll all be non-conforming within five or six years."

Jeff Iles, Dysart's director of planning, said amendments would also see decks and patios allowed within the setback providing they're not attached to the primary residence. Development approvals will be required before any structure can be built, with owners also having to earn a perfect shoreline report score through the municipality's lake health assessment program. Iles said applications will only be considered for private property.

A public survey available on the municipal website May 15 to June 15 garnered 735 responses, with 56 per cent in favour of the changes, 40 per cent opposed, and four per cent unsure.

"Given how close [those numbers] are, it indicates a need for carefully balanced policy decisions that address both environmental concerns and property flexibility," Iles said.

The planner said 85 per cent of respondents rate natural shorelines as very or extremely important, while noting opinions were split on whether the proposed changes would impact local waterbodies. "This suggests any change should be backed by environmental science and public education."

With the mixed response, Iles said staff question whether a change to policies established two decades ago is warranted.

Figureheads from lake and cottage associations on Redstone, Kashagawigamog, Kennisis, Miskwabi, Grace and Percy lakes each submitted comments opposing the amendments. Dale Hawkins, president of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization (LKO), said she felt the changes would negatively impact water quality and the feel of her lake.

"My family has been here since 1829, one of the things we do appreciate is lake health. The economy is based on that. When I look across the lake, I like… seeing trees. That's important to me and a lot of people," Hawkins said, noting 95 per cent of LKO members are very concerned about water quality. "We're recommending council maintains the status quo."

Anna Tillman, from the Percy Lake Ratepayers' Association, said the proposal goes against the primary objective of Dysart's OP, which is to enhance and preserve the environmental qualities that contribute to the attractiveness of the municipality.

"We do not want our lake to become Lake Muskoka, where boathouses and other structures line the shorelines," Tillman said.

Only one of 18 people to speak or have comments read at the meeting supported the plan. Council made no comments during the public hearing, with mayor Murray Fearrey saying officials will respond at its July 22 meeting.

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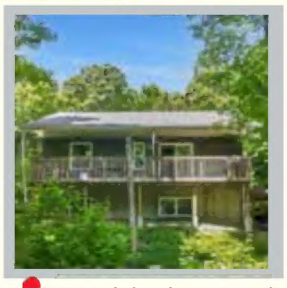
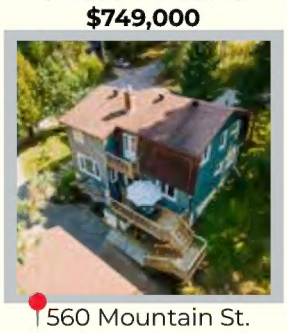

1336 Irish Line Road
3 Beds | 2 Baths
$798,000


560 Mountain St.
4 Beds | 3 Baths
$625,000

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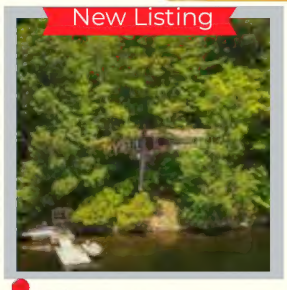
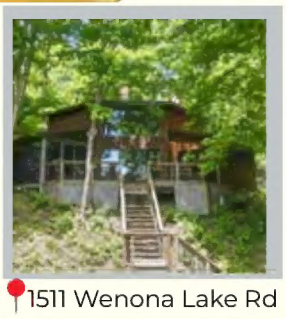
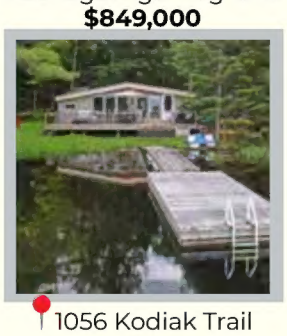
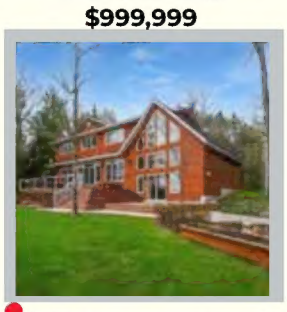
Waterfront

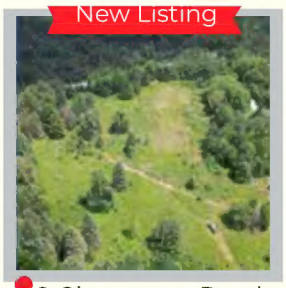
New Listing

1089 Autumn Lane
Kashagawigamog lake
$849,000

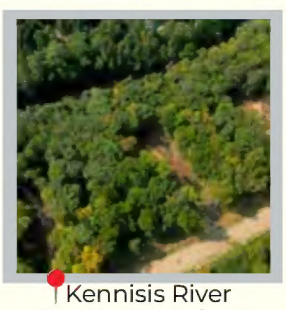

1511 Wenona Lake Rd
Wenona Lake
$999,999

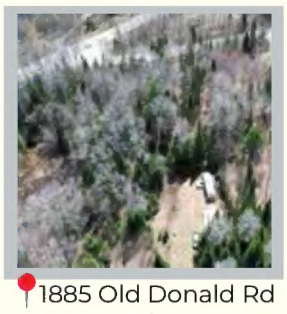

1056 Kodiak Trail
Glamor Lake
$559,000

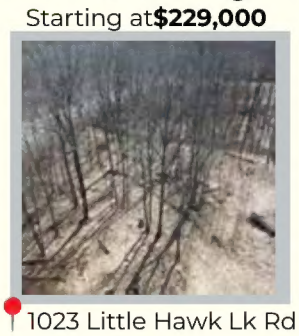

1182 Mountainview Rd
Mountain Lake
$1,949,000

Vacant Land

New Listing

0 Glamorgan Road
13.42 Acres | $189,900


Kennisis River
13 Lots Remaing!
Starting at $229,000


1885 Old Donald Rd
2.01 Acres | $179,000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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Parishioners Helen Burk and Janice Carr will join Rev. Harry Morgan in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Lochlin United Church July 13. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Lochlin United turning 100

By Mike Baker

Standing beside one of the near century-old pews inside Lochlin United Church, longtime minister Rev. Harry Morgan wonders where his mother would have sat while attending her first service at the parish more than eight decades earlier.

Congregation leader for the past 33 years, Morgan's ties with the facility run deep. His mother, Edna Hadley, was a regular during the church's formative years, travelling from nearby Snowdon, where she was a schoolteacher.

"This was the hub of the whole community, that's one thing my mom would always say," Morgan told *The Highlander* in a recent interview. "She had a real connection with this place… it's fitting that, all these years later, I find myself here."

Celebrating its centennial this year, the parish has been a Lochlin lynchpin since its dedication on Nov. 22, 1925. The building cost $3,800, about $63,000 in today's money, though the camaraderie and sense of community created within its walls has been priceless, said Helen Burk, who has been attending for more than 70 years.

She remembers all the pancake breakfasts, strawberry suppers, pig roasts and book sales; the life-lessons learned via the old Canadian Girls in Training group, an alternative to Girl Guides; and what it was like trying to find a seat in the nave for the usual Sunday morning service.

Burk flashes a smile as she recalls how Cecilia Brown would march students from the old schoolhouse on the corner of Lochlin and Gelert roads – now the community centre – to the church to practice Christmas concerts. It was years before she learned that her father, Cecil, served as the church's Santa Claus for much of her childhood.

"For a long time, this was the place to be in Lochlin. It was the beating heart of the community… but it's gotten harder over the years. There are no young people [coming here] anymore," she said.

Today, the congregation is around 15-20 people most weeks, a far cry from the 50-plus who attended services religiously for the first half of the church's life. Morgan said it's been a slippery slope for the United Church Canada-wide since about 1967.

He joined the church in 1992, returning to his roots in the Highlands after several years in Quebec. Morgan remembers his first service well.

"The place was full, there were balloons everywhere and I remember looking out into the crowd before speaking and seeing three of my former teachers – Yvonne Newell, Betty Hicks and Gerry Feltham – smiling up at me," he said. "A special moment, for sure."

Janice Carr, a parishioner since 1984, was in the crowd that day. She said Morgan has been a "wonderful" leader over the past three decades, guiding the church through some dark days. Forced closures through the COVID-19 pandemic were difficult, she said, though the three years since have been even harder.

While reopening for the usual 10 a.m. in-person Sunday services in 2022, all the extras that once brought the church community so close have fallen by the wayside. There hasn't been a Sunday school service for youth since 2018, while public events have been a no-go after the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit (HKPR) condemned the water supply in 2021.

That could be about to change after the congregation chipped in to pay for a new ultraviolet purification system and fridge, both installed this year.

"We would like to start hosting things again… we hope to have people back here for carolling during Christmas," Morgan said.

A 100th anniversary celebration will be held on the grounds of the community centre, by the baseball diamond, on July 13. The day will begin with an outdoor service, followed by a community picnic, games, childrens' crafts and live music by Jody Tilgrim. A gospel singalong begins at 9:45 a.m., with festivities running into the afternoon.

Morgan said the event is an opportunity for the church to re-connect with old friends and, hopefully, make some new ones.

"We're proud to hit 100 years, because churches are closing left, right and centre now. This is a chance for us to remember what this place has meant to the people of Lochlin," he said. "Everyone is welcome to attend.

"We're not sure what's going to happen next. Finances are always a concern, but the Lord doth provide so far, so we keep carrying on… hopefully for another [100 years]."

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada, sparking celebrations across the County. Highland Hills United Church in Minden held a commemorative service June 15, with the parish marking its centennial in January 2026. Haliburton United Church has been active since 1918, when the local Presbyterian and First Methodist churches merged to form the Union Church. It took its current name in 1925.

Knox United Church in Dorset is celebrating its 131st year – it was a Presbyterian parish upon its opening in 1894; while Cardiff & St. Marks – Paudash United Church maintains a Sunday service in Highlands East, following the closure of churches in Gooderham and South Wilberforce in recent years.

Zion United Church in Carnarvon closed in 2019, merging with Highland Hills in Minden, Maple Lake United Church in Stanhope closed in 2022, with Ingoldsby United Church closing in 2023.

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Dysart talks back to the future on planning

By Mike Baker

Some members of Dysart et al council want to see the township amend its procurement policy, moving away from a digital-only system that manages project bids in one place to one that also accepts paper proposals from County-based companies.

At its June 24 meeting, while discussing results from a tender put out for winter sand screening at Carroll Pit, which drew only one bid, deputy mayor Walt McKechnie said he felt the township's existing process was "not really fair to local contractors who could put bids in."

The job was to have someone come into the township-owned Carroll Pit and use municipal materials to prepare sand for winter road maintenance. Public works director Rob Camelon said eight interested parties attended a site meeting earlier this year, but only one company, Francis Thomas Contracting based in Algonquin Highlands, submitted a bid, totalling $344,637 plus HST.

McKechnie flagged the township requiring a bid bond – a financial guarantee from a contractor ensuring they follow through with a project – as one reason for the lack of local interest.

CAO Tamara Wilbee pointed out the lone bidder was a local business, while Camelon said he didn't hear any comments or concerns from any would-be bidder while the project was open.

Wilbee noted staff are reviewing its procurement policies to look at new ways of attracting interest in municipal projects. Mayor Murray Fearrey suggested allowing certified checks, money orders, or lines of credit as an alternative to bid bonds.

Coun. Barry Boice, who owns Blair Sand & Gravel, said he knows many local companies don't bother bidding on projects that require bonds.

"Full disclosure, it deterred my company," he said. "There are a lot of companies in the area more than capable of doing that work, but when we hear the word 'bond' it takes things to another level, and we're not prepared for that."

Coun. Pat Casey, who owns construction firm Total Site Services, said his company "didn't bother with it either" because of the bond requirement. He added another layer to the discussion by asking why the township doesn't allow both electronic and physical bids on tenders.

Wilbee said Dysart has been using its virtual 'bids and tenders' software for the past five years, opining it's the only way to run an open and transparent process. Casey felt that was excluding people who aren't as computer literate as others.

"If [we're using] community tax dollars, we should be doing what we can to ensure the money stays in the community and there's accountability for that," he said. "If we have to massage those systems, to me, that's our job."

Casey pitched turning down the Francis Thomas bid and re-tendering the work, allowing a mix of virtual and physical bids and other modes of security.

Camelon said if the township put out the same tender just because it didn't like the price, they could be challenged in court. Clerk Mallory Bishop also warned about some councillors potentially being in a conflict of interest.

"I'm not the integrity commissioner, but I would caution council of turning down a bid, re-tendering and then awarding a contract to a company of someone who is on council," Bishop said.

Camelon was concerned re-tendering wouldn't leave enough time to complete the work. Under the current bid, sand will be ready for hauling in mid-September.

Through this deal, Casey said he felt the township "could be paying $100,000 in excess of what the job's really worth."

Council opted to award the contract to Francis Thomas Contracting.

Boice, Casey and coun. Carm Sawyer circled back on adopting a hybrid system for bidding.

"Go through bids and tenders, but also do it with paper. What is wrong with opening an envelope that says the bid, like it used to be done 15 or 20 years ago? What's the problem with that?" Boice asked. Wilbee rebutted, "accountability and transparency."

She said staff are available to assist anyone having issues with the virtual process, while pointing to help guides on the municipal website. Wilbee said staff put out a couple of projects last term that didn't require bid bonds, saying it didn't increase interest.

Dysart et al council discussed changes to its procurement policy at a June 24 meeting. *File.*

"We got single bids still. We promoted through the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association, and it didn't change the outcome," she said.

Despite that, Dysart will now accept other security options for projects under $500,000, though anything over $500,000 still requires a bid bond, pending legal review.

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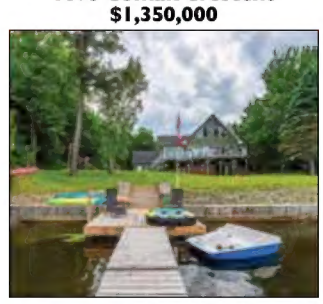

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Editorial opinion

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Slippery slope

By Mike Baker

It was a case of old school clashing with new world at a recent Dysart et al council meeting.

What appeared to be a fairly standard item on the June 24 agenda, awarding a contract for screening at Carroll Pit to provide the municipality with sand for the winter, turned into a lengthy and, at times, animated debate.

The project drew only one bid, despite eight interested parties attending a site meeting earlier this year, with Algonquin Highlands firm Francis Thomas Contracting scooping the work for $344,000 and change.

Some elected officials, including deputy mayor Walt McKechnie and councillors Pat Casey, Barry Boice and Carm Sawyer were ticked off by the decision. They were unhappy with the process the township used to advertise and take bids on the project.

Since 2020, the municipality has floated jobs on its virtual 'bids and tenders' platform. CAO Tamara Wilbee argued it's the only way to run an open and transparent process, essentially the gold standard for local-level procurement.

Boice, who owns Blair Sand & Gravel, said his and several other local companies didn't follow-up because Dysart required interested parties to submit bid bonds with their application - basically a financial guarantee to ensure the job is done on-time and to standard. He said smaller companies don't use bid bonds as it can be an expensive and complicated process.

Casey felt some County firms were put off because bids could only be registered online. He and Boice believe Dysart should also allow old-fashioned paper bids, as was the norm 15-20 years ago, opening the door for more local bids.

Because of the lack of options, Casey went on to say that he felt the township was stuck paying $100,000 more than the job was worth.

Moving forward, they pitched a hybrid system offering companies the chance to bid on contracts both virtually and physically. On one hand, you'd want to listen to two guys with extensive knowledge of how the industry works, especially if they think there's an opportunity to save money. Or at least keep it local, which was Sawyer's main gripe.

However, recognizing that the world today is all about following process and protocols, and limiting liability, we don't expect it to get much traction.

What was a bit of a worry was seeing Casey, who owns Total Site Services, and Boice be warned by Dysart et al clerk Mallory Bishop that they may be wading into murky waters by discussing an issue they have a vested interest in. However well-intentioned their comments were, seemingly centred on wanting to save the township money, they played a dangerous game not only staying in the room, but actively engaging in a topic where they had a clear conflict.

Onto another matter. Tuesday saw the township host a public meeting for a proposed amendment to its official plan and zoning bylaw. Essentially, Dysart plans to allow lakefront property owners to install one of a gazebo, shed or sauna overlooking the water providing it's at least three metres away from shore. Current setbacks are 20-30 metres.

A survey posted on the municipal website between May 15 and June 15 had 735 responses, with 56 per cent in favour of the changes, 40 per cent opposed, and four per cent unsure.

Council heard from over a dozen people against the move, with most citing concerns over impacts on water quality. Given the mixed reaction, Jeff Iles, Dysart's director of planning, said staff wondered whether it was worth proceeding.

One local, Carolyn Langdon, said she wanted the township to conduct a thorough study to measure the impacts before proceeding – that's probably a good idea, especially considering the move is such a significant departure from the rules outlined when the OP was formed two decades ago and the site alteration bylaw implemented in 2023.

Be sure to tune into Dysart's July 22 meeting if you're interested in finding out where that file lands.

Memories a-plenty

By Lisa Gervais

In summer, the content of our newspaper inevitably changes.

With most institutions taking a break, it allows us to get away from watching meetings on Zoom.

This means more people stories, and I couldn't be happier for the change from hard news week-in, week-out.

This week, I had the honour of speaking to family, colleagues, and friends of the late Bill Burden; the long-time proprietor of the West Guilford store.

I knew Bill as many of us knew Bill. I occasionally stopped into the store to pick up booze, or food, and often ordered my fresh turkeys for special occasions.

He was such a big part of the store until his illness took over that it is hard to imagine West G store without him.

In his more than 40 years as store owner, he touched many, many lives. His daughter, Cori, shared some tales with us this week: things such as her dad giving a family free diapers to help them through the winter when hard times fell; feeding families when their patriarch was unemployed; taking care of families who had a parent with addiction; and paying utility bills.

Of course, Bill never sought attention for these examples of helping a neighbour.

He was simply a good man: a good community member, husband, father and grandfather. Words such as "gentleman, friendly, funny, happy, calm, caring and quiet" came to mind.

What a life and what a legacy.

While Bill saw 79 years, I also recently met a young man of 11 who made a distinct impression on me. His name is Nathan Lowe and he lives in Haliburton with his family.

Nathan was diagnosed with congenital heart disease before he was even born, and has faced more medical challenges than most people do in a lifetime, including undergoing multiple surgeries, and living under constant care.

His family went on a Make-A-Wish trip to Costa Rica. Nathan got to do once-in-a-lifetime stuff, seeing a volcano, ziplining over the rainforest, and hanging with sloths.

He expressed such heartfelt gratitude for the experience; so much so that he and the family are going to volunteer for fundraising opportunities for Make-A-Wish Canada so they can help dreams come true for other kids.

As Nathan toured me around his bedroom, we talked about his visits, courtesy of MLSE, to Scotiabank Arena and meeting members of the Toronto Maple Leafs. He had hockey cards of himself made up that he signed and handed out to the Leaf players. Cheeky, just like Nathan.

As I was preparing to go, I asked if he had any parting questions or comments. He did. He wanted to know if I was going to put him on the front page. His sense of humour and attitude – despite his challenges – certainly won me over.

Some weeks, it feels like all I do is watch talking heads on a computer screen. I'll still do some of that this summer, but I am always on the hunt for great human-interest stories too. Email me at editor@thehighlander.ca

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Editorial opinion

LETTERS

We need to know STR addresses

Dear editor,

A short-term rental dashboard showing the locations of licensed STRs countywide is essential.

Since Montreal's 2023 STR fire, where seven people died, government has realized the STR sector must be regulated. Licensing ensures a minimum of safety equipment, however there is more to be done. It's time to separate the good responsible STR operators from the others.

The key to regulating STRs is to ensure all operators get a licence. However, the municipality is going to need more resources for bylaw enforcement and inspections.

Municipalities must limit the number and location of STR licences issued. If you try to sell your property and the lake is half STR properties, you're not getting top dollar for your sale. That's going to affect MPAC values and municipalities' tax revenue in the long-term.

MPAC needs to consistently evaluate properties. Private properties are done on value and businesses on income potential. "An income-producing property's market value is tied directly to its ability to generate revenue." Full participation in licensing is required and MPAC needs access to the data.

Municipalities face increasing demands for late night weekend bylaw enforcement. Before municipalities get too excited about commissioning tourism ad campaigns, they need to dramatically beef up bylaw enforcement, driving unlicensed STRs to get licences or be delisted from online rental platforms. MAT revenue needs to be directed towards the problems generated by unlicensed STRs or there won't be much interest in owning vacation properties.

The STR wild west needs to come to an end. Licensing protects renters from fire traps, lakes from overflowing septic systems and STR neighbours from undermanaged businesses. STR operators need to protect their properties and licences with the ability to evict unruly guests with the aid of bylaw officers. Municipalities cannot claim lack of funds for enforcement while they ignore unlicensed operators.

Chris Williams
Minnicock Lake

A wildlife kind of day

Dear editor,

On June 30, it seemed Mother Nature decided to put on a whole show just for me.

I was taking my usual early morning stroll down 25th Line Road, minding my own business in this thickly forested area. Suddenly, a huge commotion: I accidentally startled a grouse. Now, these birds aren't exactly known for their graceful takeoffs, right? Well, this one proved the point spectacularly. Instead of soaring majestically into the air over me, it went full kamikaze, drilling me beak first, right in the chest. I mean, seriously? Yo, dude, learn how to fly.

Further down the road, I spotted something in the shadows…what was it? A deer? A moose? It was a way off so I wasn't sure. As I grew closer, I found it was not just a deer but – wow – then there were two. Did I just witness a little Bambi birth?

I saw the little fawn test out its new wobbly legs. It took off like a shot straight toward me with mama just a few feet away in the adjacent field, no doubt screaming "you get over here right now." With Bambi fearlessly charging toward me, I had to brace in case s/he decided to jump on me. At the last moment, he hit the brakes on his gangly new legs, looked up at me with the most adorable, confused expression. "Are you my momma?" I couldn't resist giving the lil' fella a pat on the head, then watched it run into the forest with mom in hot pursuit. How cool is that?

Later in the day, just when I thought my day couldn't get any more Mother Nature-y, a robin sped out from under the deck in a flurry so I thought I'd best investigate and found four beautiful blue robin eggs.

Hélène Kay
Algonquin Highlands

Nelson will be missed

Dear editor,

Re. Mike Baker's column (June 26th. "A great loss") was spot on.

Ms. Nelson, CEO of HHHS, is a huge loss indeed. Mr. Baker clearly outlined all her accomplishments over the two years of her tenure.

However, she has set the standard for any future CEO. Big shoes to fill indeed.... I can only hope that the board will be satisfied with no less when they seek her replacement.

I don't recall any previous CEO who was so forward-looking and who has done so much for so many; who was so cognizant of the needs of a community such as ours, and who has ever engaged with the community so openly, so honestly, and with a sense of humour. The results are obvious.

Thank you, Ms. Nelson, and may you have every success as CEO at Ross Memorial Hospital -- they are so fortunate to have you as their leader.

Jane N. Taylor
Algonquin Highlands

Seeing a problem

Dear editor,

I respect Jeanne Anthon, but I don't think my assessment of Minden Hills councillors' conduct constitutes 'personal harassment and verbal abuse'. In fact, that's what I thought I saw taking place around the council table. I comment because I see dysfunction masquerading as passion as an impediment to good people undertaking public service.

Until the council table is occupied by people who understand that their job is thoughtful foresight and planning, informed by high-level oversight, and that day-to-day operations are the job of municipal employees under the leadership and authority of the CAO whom council hires, good governance will be hindered by nit-picking and micro-managing. That, I think, is what most frequently constitutes harassment and abuse around that table.

Good to see Coun. Pam Sayne asking for re-training about council versus staff roles: could be I'm not the only person who sees this problem.

Fay Martin
Minden Hills

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Electrician, firefighter and pit crew

By Susan Tromanhauser

"9-1-1. What is your emergency?"

If you live in Algonquin Highlands and make that emergency call, you may be introduced to Rob Sargent and his firefighting crew.

Sargent is a volunteer firefighter at the Algonquin Highlands Stanhope station. Currently in the role of acting captain, his firefighting responsibilities began more than 20 years ago.

After relocating to the Highlands after 16 years in the telecommunication field in Toronto, Sargent sought career advice to become an electrician and found himself convinced to become a volunteer firefighter as well.

After his fourth training night, he was handed a pager and started learning on the job, later certified at the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst. Legislation has since changed and becoming certified today is more complex, including online and practical training. An outside agency now proctors the exam to be certified. Sargent is proud of the training at Stanhope as over the years more than 30 volunteer firefighters have gone on to become full-time paid firefighters in bigger jurisdictions.

When Sargent gets notified on his phone's "who's responding" app, he makes it from his home on Kushog Lake to the station on North Shore Road in 10 minutes. He explains volunteer firefighters use green flashing lights to alert other motorists they are on their way to a call. The flashing lights afford volunteer firefighters courtesy from other drivers and allows them to drive on roads which many be closed due to emergency. Once arriving at the station, within two minutes Sargent is in his equipment and on the truck with his team, off to wherever their assistance is needed.

A commitment of two hours each Monday evening for on-going training is required for each firefighter. An estimate of how many hours spent each month volunteering as a firefighter is difficult as it depends on the number of emergency calls, which vary.

Aside from volunteer firefighting as well as his paid job as an electrician, Sargent also acts as pit-crew for dog sled racing. His wife, Karen Koehler, races with their German short-haired pointers. Sargent takes care of the dogs and equipment. In the winter, they travel "anywhere within a 12-hour drive, which could include Ontario, Quebec, New York and Maine." They have traveled as far as Alberta, where Koehler won two Canadian national titles for dryland racing. Sargent is emphatic everyone involved in the sport of dog racing puts the welfare of the dogs first. Sargent jokes some dogs eat steak while their owners must eat beans.

When he is not at his job as an electrician, dog-racing, or attending emergencies, Sargent also enjoys the community work firefighters engage in. At the recent Boshkung Lake Association AGM, Sargent and his colleagues educated cottagers on fire safety and allowed children (and grown ups) photo ops while they investigated firefighting equipment close up.

Sargent hopes emergency calls are never needed but if they are, he is confident with his Stanhope team, he is prepared to deal with any situation.

Rob Sargent. *Submitted.*

Highlander news

Minden completes ice storm clean-up

By Mike Baker

The County of Haliburton and Minden Hills township have wrapped emergency clean-up efforts following the March ice storm, with full costs to be presented to respective councils in the near future.

Haliburton County was one of the worst-hit areas, with an estimated 20 millimetres of ice build-up from March 28-30 downing thousands of trees and power lines across the region. Approximately 85 per cent of County residents were without power for several days, with some properties taking weeks to be brought back online.

Minden Hills declared a state of emergency March 31, which ran until May 5. The County implemented a partial state of emergency March 31 and lifted it May 9.

County CAO Gary Dyke said Ontario's Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response (MEPR) has committed to assisting both the upper-tier and Minden Hills, with each entitled to have up to 75 per cent of incurred costs reimbursed through the province's emergency cost recovery funding program.

"The County is in the process of submitting our documentation for application for funding with the province. A report regarding the costs incurred by the County and our funding submission to the province will be provided at an upcoming council meeting," Dyke told *The Highlander* in a June 27 email.

Minden Hills mayor Bob Carter said the township concluded the official part of its ice storm clean-up June 13. He said there will be two numbers made public – the total cost, and the amount eligible to be recouped.

Minden mayor Bob Carter, right, and County CAO Gary Dyke, centre wearing a hat, met with Ontario premier Doug Ford following the March ice storm. *File.*

"We will make our costs available in the near future," he said. "We have accounting staff who [were] part of every meeting so that we can keep adequate control and accumulate all the expenses related to the emergency separate from normal township business."

Last month, the province announced it was also launching two one-time financial assistance programs to support communities impacted by the storm.

The municipal ice storm assistance program will help municipalities pay for emergency response and clean-up costs, while the business ice storm assistance fund will help small businesses, farms and not-for-profits pay for costs not covered by private insurance. The programs are taking applications until Oct. 31.

Hydro One is also assisting, offering 50 Ontario communities one-time payments of $10,000 to offset costs. The County and Minden Hills each received payouts.

Dyke said the money won't be used for any specific item.

"It will help offset the County's 25 per cent share and/or those costs that are not eligible under the emergency cost recovery funding program," he said.

Carter said Minden Hills used the money, which arrived while clean-up was occurring, to purchase saws, a portable generator and equipping two municipal trucks with radios.

During the storm, Carter met with Teri French, Hydro One's executive vice president of safety, operations and customer experience, in Minden. After telling French that provincial money couldn't be used to purchase assets, he said the township needed for clean-up, Hydro One stepped up – essentially creating its ice storm 2025 recovery grant.

"After seeing the need, Hydro One decided to create a grant to enable municipalities to buy critical equipment," he said.

In an emailed statement to *The Highlander*, Hydro One said, "Hydro One cares deeply about Haliburton County and Minden Hills, and the ice storm 2025 recovery grant is a way for us to continue to be a partner as they rebuild. What stood out in their applications was their continued commitment to building on their current emergency response to make sure members of their communities are cared for in times when they need it most."

Katrina McCallum and Avi Berger in the Burnt Crust kitchen. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Pizza makers happy to finally be making dough

By Lisa Gervais

Burnt Crust co-owner, Katrina McCallum's fondest food memories are Thanksgiving dinners with family.

"My family, maybe I'm biased, but it's better than everyone else's family," she says with a laugh. "They're all awesome people. They're funny, and so kind. Family gatherings for Thanksgiving dinners were the best."

Even now, with the extended family split between Minden and New Brunswick, more than 20 relatives rent a lodge in Quebec, "with the longest table we can possibly find and gather around that."

Glancing around the patio at Burnt Crust, McCallum comments the outside tables could be pushed together to form one long table there, "like that Thanksgiving table."

The pizzeria opened June 27 in the former Algonquin Outfitters store at 12667 Hwy. 35

McCallum's partner, Avi Berger, is co-owner. The two have renovated over many months, doing a lot of the labour themselves. "I'm glad to be out of construction mode and getting into restaurant mode," she said.

McCallum said she comes to the trade naturally, as "my grandmother was a serious baker. My mom's a really good cook. I got a lot of exposure from both of them to get skilled on both sides of the culinary industry."

She's Irish, not Italian, but says, "you can't even get tired of Italian food." She loves pasta, too, and says once they get the pizza side operating at full capacity, they can begin offering pastas. They've also applied for a liquor license. They have Donair sauce, desserts and non-alcoholic drinks.

They were aware of Godfathers, but did not know about New Orleans Pizza, which has recently opened. However, McCallum said their pizza is different.

They have a massive pizza oven, made by Marra Forni, that can cook 10 pizzas at a time. While baking, the stone rotates, making it easier and more efficient. Their pizzas are Neapolitan style, with thin crust and raised, bubbly edges. The dough is made by hand and left to rest and ferment for 24 hours before baking. McCallum said it increases the flavour and texture. And, like the business name, the idea is to have burnt pieces on the crust.

"We're going to introduce weekly special pizzas and hopefully people will give us feedback on whether they want that one to stay… our menu will grow with people's tastes around here. The nice thing about it is we're not a chain. We can change it."

They plan to operate year-round and have a portable pizza oven so they can visit events and festivals and cater as well.

McCallum said she and Berger moved to Minden Hills to be closer to her parents. "It's touristy for a reason, because all the lakes are just gorgeous, and it makes summer time way more fun than being in the city or anywhere."

As for how they've been received, McCallum said she hadn't heard bad reviews, although on the Canada Day long weekend, they were short-staffed and it took longer to deliver food to customers. "Some people are understanding and some people are not. That's the reality." She added "everybody's quite receiving" of the actual food.

She noted how other restauranters have welcomed them, too. "They're happy to support one another.

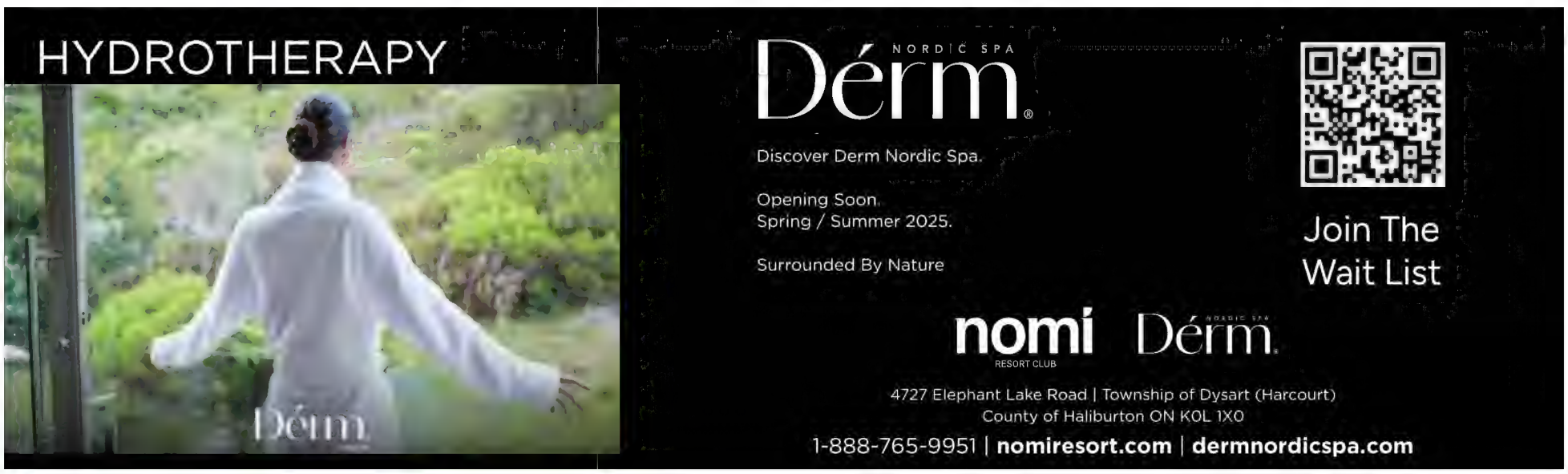
"And we're just excited. We're going to expand and this is just the start."

Highlander events

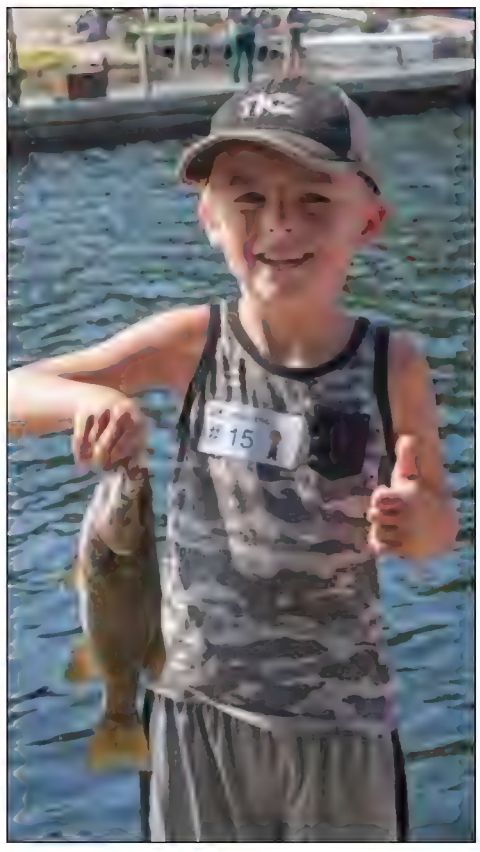
Barrel of laughs

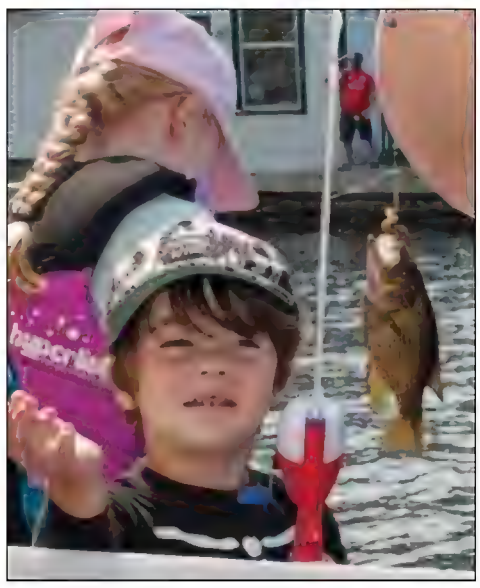
Howls of laughter filled the evening sky at Abbey Gardens July 12 as Toronto-based comedy troupe Girls Nite Out brought their hilarious improv to the Highlands. There was plenty of audience interaction, with the 100 people attending treated to laugh-out-loud stand-up routines, creative improvised games, and the comedy game show 'Pop the Question'.

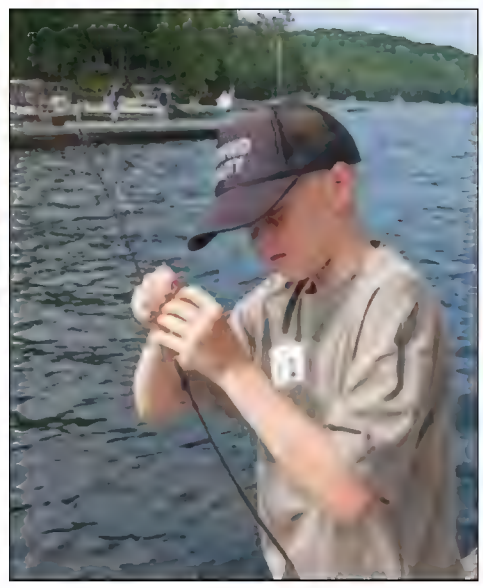
Top left: Girls Nite Out comedy troupe Karen Parker, Diana Frances, and Jennine Profeta took to the stage at Abbey Gardens. Top right: Nicole Marshall, Andria Cowan Molyneaux, Mackenzie Sharp, and Mina Zeighami enjoyed their evening. Bottom: Lindsay Wilkinson, Carla Stewart and Jacqueline Stewart share a toast to good laughs. Photos by Ryan Roediger.



Highlander events







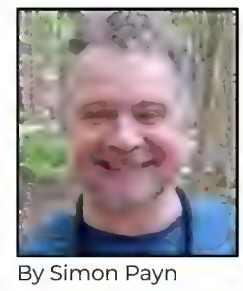
Cutest catch

The town dock at Trading Bay was a flurry of excited noise and activity July 5 as Algonquin Highlands township hosted its 28th annual Dorset Kids' Fishing Derby. It was perfect weather for kicking back and throwing a line into the water as children 16 and under competed for the honourary title of Dorset's top up-and-coming angler. Lead organizer Sandra Rogers confirmed there were 51 entrants this year noting that, regardless of catch size, all participants left with a prize.

Top left: George Barrett proudly shows off his catch of the day. Top right: Story Musgrove shows her haul. Middle left: Lev Marcetic peeks over his whopper of a catch. Middle right: Conservation officer Vanessa Klimuk, left, speaks to the contestants to start the derby, with organizer Sandra Rogers, right. Bottom left: Archer Woodworth with his catch. Bottom right: Jackson McBride baits his hook. *Photos by Ryan Roediger.*

ADVERTORIAL

Native plants that solve thorny problems



By Simon Payn

If you think you're seeing the same garden plants again and again, you're not wrong.

There's a good reason for this: it makes sense for the landscaping business. These plants are proven performers, they solve problems, and they are easy to grow. When you check all these boxes, there's little reason to expand your plant palette.

But most of the plants the trade uses aren't native. While they might please us, they don't do as much as they could for nature. Worse than that, some of the plants are considered invasive; they could take over your garden and, if they escape, do serious damage to our forests and our lakes.

So here are some native plants that can replace them.

I want to cover the ground

Most of the cottages I visit have Periwinkle growing somewhere. I'm not surprised - it does the job of covering the ground and has pretty purple flowers. But it's a real thug (not its fault, it's just growing where it has no competitors.)

How about choosing Canada Violet instead? It has large leaves and pretty white flowers with purple streaks. It will spread but won't go crazy.

If your soil is acidic, perhaps because of nearby conifers, consider Wintergreen. Its leaves look a little like Periwinkle.

For shaded areas, look to the Sedges. There are loads of different types with different textures, and over time the plants knit together to create a tapestry.

I want a screen that ugly wall

Instead of the Spirea varieties, many of which come from Asia and not the Highlands, try Ninebark, which supports dozens of pollinators and has flowers in spring. Or Highbush Cranberry with its red berries and colourful fall foliage. For very shaded areas, look to Spicebush. As a bonus, deer hate it. Meanwhile, Grey Dogwood does a great screening job and flowers early summer.

I have a large, sunny area, but the deer eat everything!

I hear you! This is the problem I face at Lucas House in Haliburton. Try a layer of Little Bluestem, which rewards with bronze foliage and shining seeds in fall. If you've got plenty of space, Narrowleaf Mountain Mint will fill it, with lots of white flowers come summer. I also find deer don't touch Pearly Everlasting. Some flowering plants such as Wild Bergamot and Black-eyed Susan are generally left alone, although hungry deer might eat the flowers.

I want to fill an area with colour

This is why Daylilies are so popular. They'll easily grow and people love their orange flowers. But they're aggressive. Instead, consider Wild Bergamot again for its purple flowers and ability to spread. Or if you've got a wetter area that needs filling, Swamp Milkweed would make a great choice.

I have shade, and all I can grow are Hostas

Hostas fill this niche, but deer love them. Plus, to my eye, there's something tropical about them that makes them look out of place. Consider Sedges for texture and groundcover, or Wild Ginger which also covers the ground and has big leaves. Then think of all the early-flowering plants, such as Early Meadowrue or some ferns, like the dramatic Ostrich Fern or the elegant Royal Fern.

One more thing

Remember: creating a landscape isn't about individual plants, it's about putting plants together into a community. That's where an expert can help!

Simon Payn is the owner of Haliburton-based natural garden company, Grounded. To find out more, visit groundedgardens.ca.

Highlander community

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Minden Health Care Auxiliary members Baldish Toor, Pat Bradley, Monique Perreault, and Cecille Gibbons will be collecting money for the annual tag day fundraiser July 11. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Auxiliary helping the Hub

By Mike Baker

The Minden Health Care Auxiliary is reminding people to remember their wallets while out in the community July 11.

The volunteer group is hosting its annual Tag Day fundraiser on Friday, raising money to support programming and source new equipment for the Minden Health Hub. Longtime member Pat Bradley said this is the auxiliary's biggest single-day fundraiser of the year.

"We don't have our ER, but there's great things going on at the hub. The urgent care clinic is helping a lot of people who don't have family doctors… there's a lot of services in this building requiring ongoing support," Bradley said.

Every year, Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) provides a wish list to the auxiliary outlining things it needs at the Minden site. "We're able to pick and choose and decide what we want to help with," Bradley noted.

Last year, the auxiliary invested approximately $30,000 into the facility upgrading its respite room, replacing medical flushers and disinfectors, installing new server cabinets at Hyland Crest, and supporting HHHS' adult day program. This year, Bradley said they are focusing on funding two new pieces of equipment for the women's clinic and nutritional software for long-term care.

After raising a record $3,600 through last year's Tag Day, Monique Perreault, an auxiliary member since 2021, said the group is hoping to eclipse that number. There will be collection spots at Canadian Tire, Tim Hortons, Dollo's Foodland, Easton's Valu-Mart, Home Hardware, and Stedman's Department Store from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and at Boshkung Social from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

While cash donations are appreciated, people will also be able to give using their credit cards – a new feature this year. E-transfers are also being accepted at mindenhca@gmail.com.

Bradley noted all funds raised during the event will stay in Minden. The organization has filtered approximately $360,000 to the MacPherson Street site since 2000.

With around 40 members, Perreault and fellow newcomer Baldish Toor said joining the auxiliary has been a great way to meet people and integrate into the community. The group is looking for new blood, to help with Tag Day, operation of the gift shop at the health hub and other fundraisers, such as its 'wine on wheels' raffle – running until Oct. 28.

"This is a great way to give back to the community," Bradley said. "We need to refresh and come up with ways to bring in even more money… because if the [proposed 91-bed] expansion to long-term care is approved, the government will provide the funds for the building, but it'll be down to us to stock it with the equipment needed."

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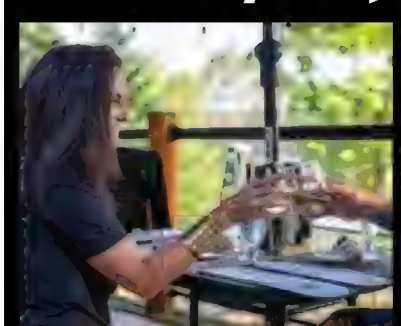

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SIRCH community services

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at 5:30 pm

SIRCH will be hosting its AGM at the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, 49 Maple Avenue, Haliburton. The meeting agenda will include the Reports from Staff, Auditor's Report and Election of Directors.

Members of the public are invited to attend. Please contact us for more information.

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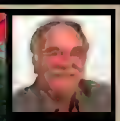

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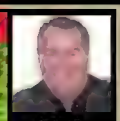
- Open-Concept, Lg Windows, Woodstove



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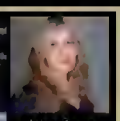

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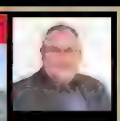

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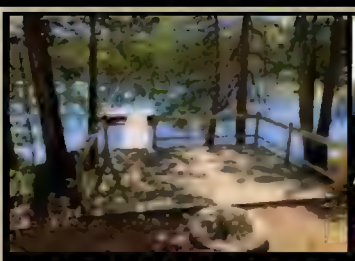

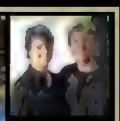

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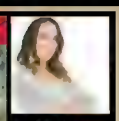

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- Attached 2-Car Garage, Home Theatre
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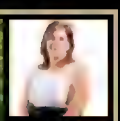

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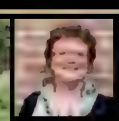

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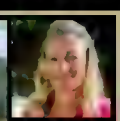

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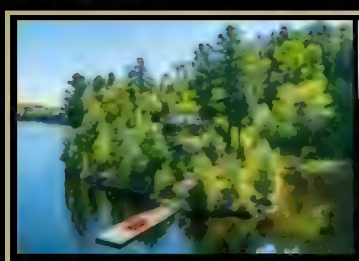

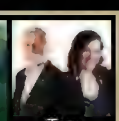

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Home of Haliburton Grassroots

MVPS!

Abby Stancati + Abby Meller Girls 10-11 Navy Team

Charlie S Girls 7-9 Silver Team

Charlotte Girls 4-6 Teal Team

Dominic Boys 4-6 White Team

Kora Reid Girls 11-13 Green Team

Markie Girls 7-9 Royal Blue

Marshall Townsend Boys 4-6 Purple Team

Mea Iles Girls 7-9 Purple Team

Olivia Emmerson Girls 10-11 White Team

Grassroots soccer: ‘a full-blown movement’

Haliburton Grassroots Soccer is absolutely bursting at the seams this summer, with more than 250 enthusiastic young athletes flooding the fields every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

For a full nine-week season, the heart of Haliburton village transforms into a vibrant soccer hub as players, coaches, and proud parents gather at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School’s fields. The atmosphere is electric; filled with the thrill of hard-fought matches and clever tactics.

Despite the limited number of available soccer fields in the area, nothing can slow down the energy and excitement of these determined kids.

Opening week saw an incredible turnout, with teams of all ages charging onto the pitch, ready to give it their all. From tiny tots kicking their first ball to more experienced players showcasing real skill and teamwork, the program has exploded in popularity, uniting the community in a shared love of the beautiful game. It’s clear: this summer, soccer isn’t just a sport in Haliburton; it’s a full-blown movement. *(Submitted)*

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Bennington 20 SL

VF90hp SHO Yamaha, Mooring Cover, 10' Bimini Top, Blackout Package, Windshield, Ski Tow, Tilt Steering, Speedo

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What's on

Show will be a night to remember

By Mike Baker

Tory Hill brothers Shawn and Josh Collins are promising the public 'A Night to Remember' at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre in Wilberforce this Saturday, July 12.

The dynamic duo has organized a self-choreographed dance show, with nine-year-old Shawn handling the performance side of the evening and seven-year-old Josh taking care of front-facing services, including snacks and refreshments.

Shawn has been dancing competitively with Skyline Dance Studio for two years and wanted another platform, aside from his parent's basement, to showcase his skills.

"At home, I could probably only fit about 20 people in – the stage is bigger than the space where the audience would sit, so that was a bit of a problem," he told *The Highlander.* "I thought to myself, why not move this to the community centre?"

Shawn said he "loves performing on stage" and has planned 10 routines for the evening. He'll be flying solo for the hour-long set, performing jazz, ballet, contemporary and acro sets.

There will be a 15-minute intermission, where Josh will serve cookies, chips and drinks.

Dad Justin Collins said it has been "a proud dad moment" watching his sons take the initiative to put on a show. He said Shawn did all the work in approaching Highlands East township to book the community centre and Agnew's General Store to help sell tickets.

"To watch them have the idea is one thing, but then to execute it is something else," the elder Collins said.

Tickets are available for $5 in advance or $10 at the door. Shawn said he plans to donate part of the proceeds to Central Food Network, to support the Wilberforce Food Bank.

Shawn is hoping for a good turnout, so that he can plan future shows.

"We'll see how this show goes, but we'll probably do another – I definitely want to," Shawn said. "I love performing on stage, dancing in front of people and making people happy."

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with the show starting at 7 p.m. For tickets, visit Agnew's or email sandra.collins385@gmail.com.

Brothers Shawn and Josh Collins are bringing a self-choreographed dance show to Wilberforce July 12. *Submitted.*

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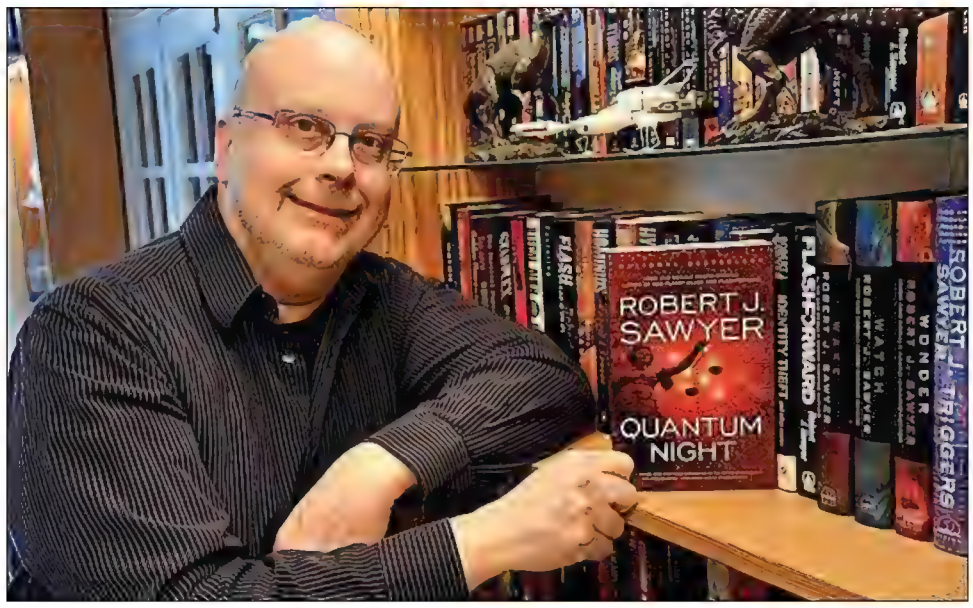
Call us: (705) 457-4848
Website: www.gardensofhaliburton.ca

GARDENS OF HALIBURTON

What's on



Science fiction author Robert J. Sawyer will meet fans and take part in a Q&A at Bookapalooza in Minden July 12. *Submitted.*

Sci-fi royalty excited to visit Haliburton County

By Mike Baker

After boldly venturing where no one Canadian has gone before, winning all three of science fiction writing's major literary awards, Robert J. Sawyer said he's looking forward to discovering the many joys Haliburton County has to offer.

The acclaimed author will meet fans, sign copies of his books and engage in a Q&A session as the featured guest at the sixth-annual Bookapalooza in Minden July 12. He'll be promoting his 25th novel, *The Downloaded*, published in 2024.

"It's a very easy read," Sawyer said. It was originally commissioned as an audio production through Audible, who released it on their platform in 2023, performed by Academy Award winning actor Brendan Fraser.

Saywer said *The Downloaded* is his response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like all his books, while set in the future, the primary plot points are formed by keeping up with present-day news headlines.

"Everything I saw while I was writing was focusing on people stopping their real lives to start virtual ones... We all uploaded, metaphorically, but knew at some point we'd have to download, to learn how to be interactively human beings again," he said, noting the book delves into that transition.

Sawyer prides himself on being able to predict future outcomes – in 2015's *Quantum Night* he wrote about a psychopathic U.S. president who wants to annex Canada. That book also tackled the fictional fallout of overturning Roe v Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court bill that established a women's constitutional right to an abortion in the States, well before it was repealed in 2022.

Most of his books take place in the near future, 20-50 years down the road.

"Any good science fiction writer's job is to look at what the hell is going on currently and extrapolate. Seeing the beginnings of a trend and figuring out what's coming next," he said.

Having already finished his 26th novel, slated for release in 2026, Sawyer said he plans to tackle environmental issues and the collapse of post-secondary education in another upcoming piece.

"The one issue I've not addressed head-on is the collapse of our environment. I kept thinking at some point we were going to wake up… but that's gone out the window," Sawyer said.

"Our university systems are under attack here in Canada… so the death of higher education, the death of critical thinking, of people being able to know when they're being lied to by the government, that is disappearing, and I will be engaging with that."

The author said he has no idea what County-based writer Doug Tindall, a long-time friend, will ask about during the Q&A, saying he hopes that makes for a "real, honest, in-the-moment" discussion.

Reflecting on his 30-year career, Sawyer said his crowning achievement is winning the genre's three major awards – the Hugo, the Nebula, and the John W. Campbell. He's one of eight authors to win all three and the only Canadian to do so.

"The Hugo is the equivalent of the People's Choice Award, voted on by readers; the Nebula is the equivalent of the Academy Award, voted on by fellow writers; and the John W. Campbell is the principal juried award in the field, voted on by a leading panel of academics," he said. "It's a rare writer who manages to appeal to [all three]."

His first award, the Nebula, came in 1996 with his third novel *The Terminal Experiment*. Sawyer attended the California ceremony with little hope of winning – a sentiment shared by his publisher, Harper Collins, who instead backed one of his competitors.

"They were gobsmacked, as was I… they said I went from being a promising newcomer to an established bankable name practically overnight," he said. "It was one of the greatest nights of my life."

Bookapalooza, hosted by the Arts Council – Haliburton Highlands, runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Minden Community Centre. Sawyer's meet and greet begins at 2:30 p.m., with a more intimate reception at the Dominion Hotel at 6 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land, being shoreline road allowances, more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024053:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Horseshoe Lake, lying in front of 1035 Meridian Court, located within Part Lot 12, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Minden
2. **File No. PLSRA2024072:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1992 Deep Bay Road, located within Part Lot 20, Concession 10, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
3. **File No. PLSRA2025033:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Canning Lake, lying in front of 1016 Carefree Drive, located within Part Lot 11, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon
4. **File No. PLSRA2025039:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1032 Pilgrim Lane, located within Part Lot 25, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Minden

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **August 8, 2025**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than August 8, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closures and conveyances will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider By-laws for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

PLSRA2024053

PLSRA2024072

PLSRA2025033

PLSRA2025039

What's on

Municipality of Dysart et al
In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 31, 2025, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Submitted tenders will be opened live on YouTube using the link:

https://youtube.com/live/32olSuUcNEk?feature=share

Description of Lands:
1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 40100 0000; PIN 39170-0005 (R); PART OF LOTS 13 AND 14, CONCESSION 5, NOW DESIGNATED AS PART 2 ON REFERENCE PLAN 19R10954, IN THE GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF DYSART, UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE, COUNTY OF HALIBURTON (LAND REGISTRY OFFICE NO. 19); File No. 23-03
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $23,000
Minimum tender amount: $18,181.85
2. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 56010 0000; 201 MOUNTAIN ST., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0106 (LT); PT LT 15 CON 6 DYSART PT 1 19R5232; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-03
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $34,500
Minimum tender amount: $7,325.90
3. Roll No. 46 24 030 000 40805 0000; PIN 39157-0107 (LT); PT LT 21 CON 4 HARCOURT AS IN H71718 S & E OF PT 4 19R1004; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-14
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $28,000
Minimum tender amount: $6,493.38
4. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 17115 0000; PIN 39169-0240 (LT); PT LT 27 CON 2 DYSART PT 2 19R3299; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-31
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $43,500
Minimum tender amount: $7,110.38

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit:

www.OntarioTaxSales.ca
or if no internet access available, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector
The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart, Dudley,
Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext.639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca
www.dysartetal.ca

Angela Kruger, the executive director of Abbey Gardens, sits in front of the event tent. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Big white tent open

By Lisa Gervais

Abbey Gardens executive director, Angela Kruger, sits and listens to the wind blow through the trees. It relaxes her. "I just find nature brings you peace. You read studies that now people are realizing this more and more."

That's one of the reasons she and the Abbey Gardens fundraising committee have decided to stage a wellness event July 12 at 1012 Garden Gate Dr.

There will be wellness workshops and demonstrations, and natural, eco-friendly, holistic wellness products and services on offer.

Abbey Gardens kicked off its big tent season with Girls Nite Out July 5. They'll feature Off the Rock – a tribute to Great Big Sea - July 19, followed by a food festival and Beach Boys tribute band Aug. 16.

Kruger said, "the music, or the concerts, that happen in the tent are what we would call friendraising – it is people coming in purely for entertainment. But, because we are community-oriented, we want to have some events that do appeal to a wider audience and families, especially."

As for this Saturday's wellness event, Kruger said she joined Abbey Gardens because she sees "a real connection between nature and wellness, and how they play a part in your mental health; the fact that Abbey Gardens is open to the public, free, 365 days of the year. We have that nature offering to help people unwind.

"There's also, locally, many things around that. It's a very holistic community. It's a first annual wellness event and I hope it continues; just a spot for people who are selling services, products, for ourselves, because we are going to launch some of those more tourism and workshop type pieces that centre around nature and wellness, because people are seeking that right now."

The food festival is a replacement for the garlic festival that used to be staged at the site.

"We have wonderful food vendors," she said, noting they will still have garlic, but also woodfired pizza, Kawartha Dairy ice cream, Til Death BBQ, and Boshkung Brewing Co. She said people can also shop from local artisans and there will be face painting.

On the day, they'll feature Beach Party Boys - a tribute to the Beach Boys.

She noted they have moved up the times for the musical offerings, doors opening at 4 p.m. for 4:30 p.m. concerts.

She said it allows travelling musicians to get away earlier, plus Abbey Gardens' Food Hub and woodfired pizza truck will still be open.

"We tried to appeal to a wider audience and it's fallen into place. It's great. There's a different theme and a different feel or vibe to each one," Kruger said.

It all winds up Aug. 25 at Blairhampton Golf Club, with the seventh Abbey Gardens golf tournament fundraiser; which Kruger describes as "a day of competition, great food, and meaningful impact, all in support of educational and environmental programming."

For more information on all of the events, go to www.abbeygardens.ca, or call 705-754-4769.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

JULY 10 - JULY 16 this week

Thursday July 10

Boshkung Brewing Live Music, 6 p.m.to 9 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Belly Dance Workshops, 6:30-7:30

Friday July 11

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Erin Blackstock, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, featuring Albert Saxby, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday July 12

Boshkung Smokehouse, Jeremy Woyce, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, J Boom, 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Chris Smith, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Sunday July 13

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Craig & Maggie, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday July 15

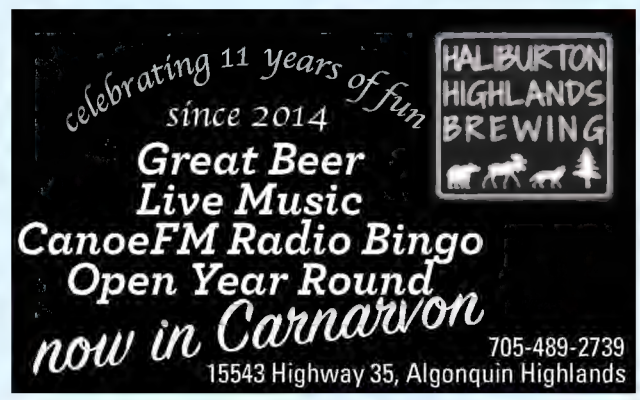
Haliburton Brewing Canoe FM Radio Bingo & dinner, 6 p.m.

Music in the Park, featuring Suzie Vinnick, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday July 16

The Dockside Bonnie View Inn, Benton Brown & The Lowdown, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Boshkung Brewing, Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Wing Wednesday!



DO YOU THROW EVENTS?

Don't miss out!

Hit us up to be advertised here in the weekly entertainment section.

laurie@thehighlander.ca

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. There will be a $1,000 jackpot Aug. 6, Sept. 3, and Oct. 1. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events.
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Upcoming events: Drum circle July 13, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. July 14, 21 and 28. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are July 16, 23, 30 at 2 p.m. Cost is $4 per player.

We have suspended our cornhole league.

Quick supper nights July 16, 23 and 30 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Menu changes weekly. Cost is $10 per person.

EVENTS

There's nothing better than summer reading. Pick up a free TD Summer Reading Club Kit at any Haliburton County Public Library branch. Read the summer away and complete activities for a chance to win a prize. Submit a 'book bingo' card and/or the 'reading passport' by Aug. 15 to enter the draw. There are activities for people of all ages and abilities.

July 10, 4 to 6 p.m. Walkabout and instructor feature at Haliburton School of Art + Design. Explore instructors' works, learn about their techniques, and discover new perspectives as you tour studios and enjoy featured exhibitions. Live music to follow in the great hall. These shows are the perfect way to unwind and connect with like-minded people. All are welcome.

July 12, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Community yard sale at 20 George St in Haliburton. Rent a spot, bring a table, and sell your stuff. Book your spot early as space is limited. Spots are $15. Hosted by North Entrance Masonic Lodge No. 463. There will also be a BBQ, pie sale, and other baked goods available. Contact nelyardsale@victoriadistrict.com for more information.

July 13, 9:45 a.m. You are invited to celebrate the United Church of Canada and Lochlin United Church's 100th anniversary with an event on the grounds of the Lochlin Community Centre. The morning will begin with a gospel sing along, with a service featuring guest speaker Paul Reed and performance by Jodi Timgren at 10:30. Community picnic and games to follow. Bring a chair or blanket to join in. For more information, call 705-457-1891.

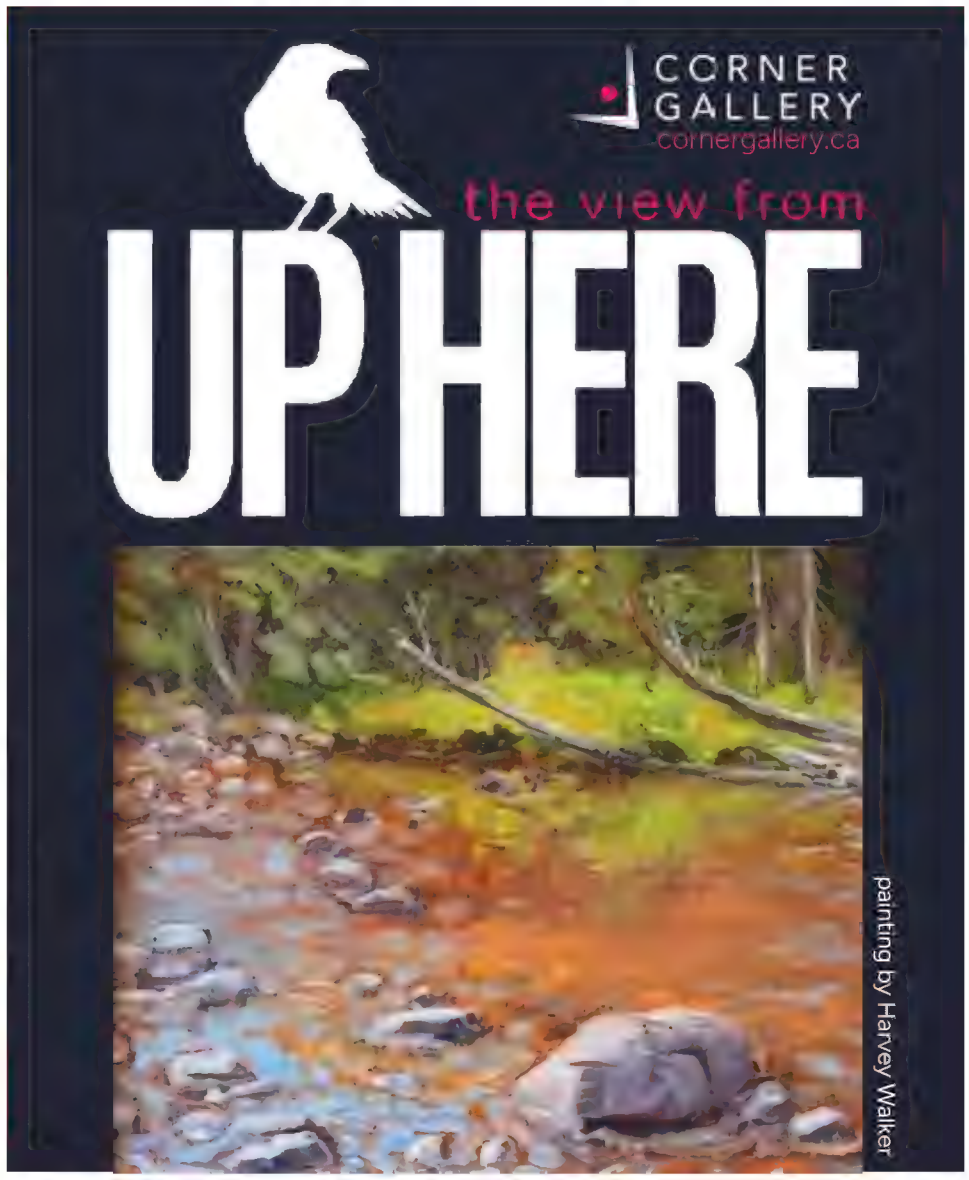
July 15, 10 a.m. Free guided walking tours in the Haliburton Sculpture Forest every Tuesday in July and August. Meet at the kiosk in the Fleming College - Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot, at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held rain or shine and can take up to two hours. Tours are free but donations are greatly appreciated. For more information visit: www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca

July 16, 10:30 a.m. Scrabble and coffee at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost at 2314 Loop Rd. Words used with a connection to the Outpost and its history win an extra 10 points. There will be another event held Aug. 20 at 10:30 a.m.

July 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners Association is hosting Art on the Dock. This event will run two days, also on July 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come out and see what our wonderful artistic minds have created. For more information, visit klcoa.org.

July 19, 5 to 7 p.m. The Wilberforce Curling Club is hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce. Adults eat for $15, children aged five to 12 for $5, and kids under five free. Drop in and have a delicious dinner before the start of the penny raffle.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email mike@thehighlander.ca.



Highlander classifieds

CELEBRATION!

Look Who's Turning 90!

Gareth Kellett

90th Birthday

Open House Celebration

Saturday July 12

1-3 at Dominion Hotel-Minden

Lite refreshments served

Your presence is a 'gift'
Best wishes only

HELP WANTED

Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation

provides housing for seniors and families in 3 locations in the village of Minden.

We are currently seeking a reliable and hard-working Cleaning/Maintenance Assistant with good work ethics and able to work independently to join our team. This position is responsible for the cleanliness, safety and minor maintenance of our buildings and properties. This is currently a part-time position, being 22.5 hours per week.

This position is responsible for the cleanliness and maintenance of Staanworth's facilities.

Primary duties include maintaining cleanliness of all building entrances, hallways, common rooms, washrooms, laundry and garbage rooms.
Secondary duties include minor repairs to apartments, painting, assistance to the maintenance supervisor with move-out procedures, garbage transport to landfills and yard maintenance. Job description is available on request.

Successful applicants will have experience in cleaning, and a sound knowledge of employment safety regulations. WHMIS certification is desired. A driver's license and abstract plus a vulnerable police check will be required.

This position includes employer paid benefits (medical, dental, vision and life insurance). The wage will commence at $18 - $20 per hour, commensurate with experience. Start date; July 21, 2025.

Please submit your resume no later than 4:30 p.m. - July 11, 2025, to:
Staanworth Non-Profit Housing, 44 Parkside Street, Minden, KOM 2KO or email to office@staanworth.ca

HELP WANTED

Fiore verde

WE ARE HIRING!

BUDTENDER

For our new Kinmount Location & Minden

We are seeking a knowledgeable and customer-oriented Budtender to join our team. The ideal candidate will have a passion for cannabis and a strong commitment to providing exceptional service.

- 19+ years old with a valid ID
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Apply within or send your resume to vito@fioreverde.ca
Website: www.fioreverde.ca

4075 County Road 121
Unit A, Kinmount
12818 Hwy 35
Unit 5, Minden

Township of Algonquin Highlands

Township of Algonquin Highlands
Parks, Recreation and Trails Department

We are currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Dorset Tower Attendant
Seasonal Trails Office Attendant

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a resume and cover letter to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

We have the following volunteer positions available:

- Driver for Community Kitchen Meals
- Thrift Warehouse
- Community Kitchen

Contact us for details at info@sirch.on.ca

SIRCH community services

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YARD SALE – 1017 Miners' Bay Road, at the foot of the Rock Cut. Saturday July 12th from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Antiques, Collectibles, Mexican & Caribbean Folk Art, Old Records and Good Junk!

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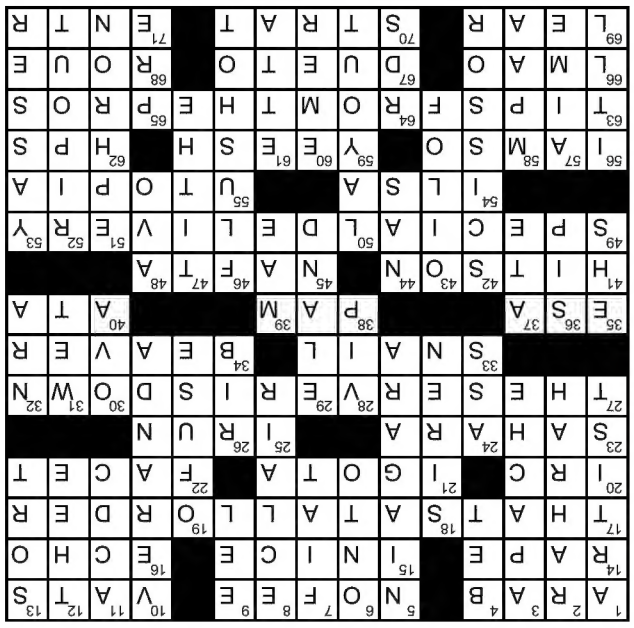
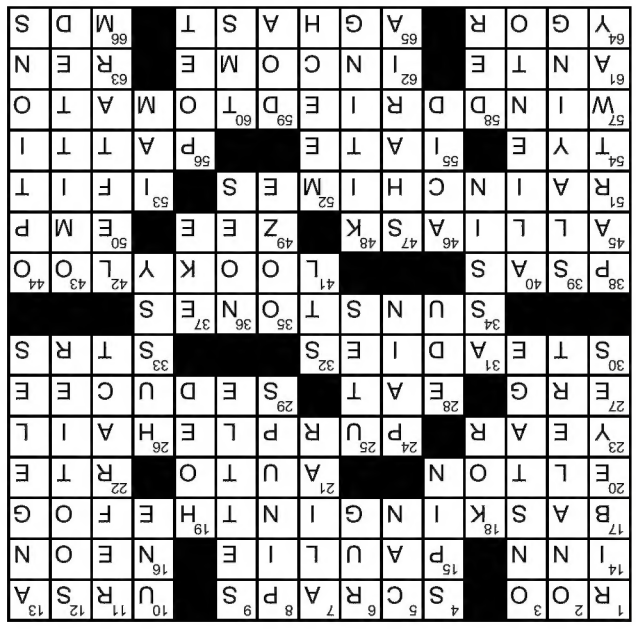
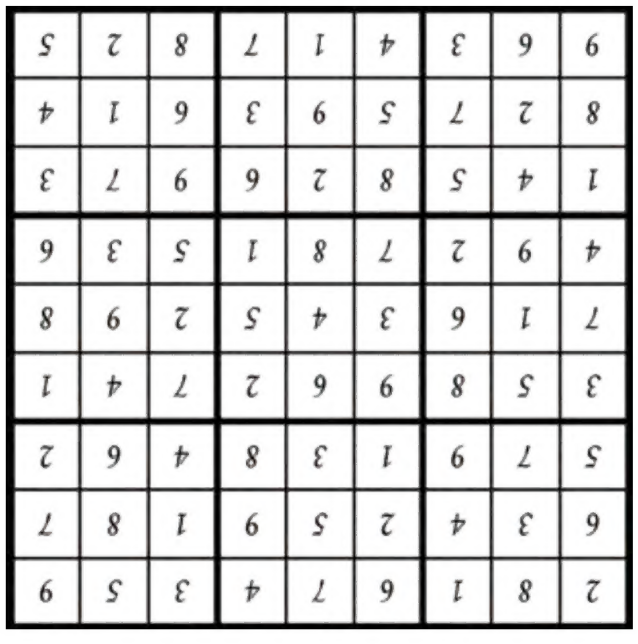


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of

William "Bill" Burden

(1945 – 2025)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Bill Burden who died peacefully at Extendicare, Haliburton on Friday, June 27, 2025 at the age of 79.

A long-time resident of West Guilford, Bill was the proud owner and heart of the West Guilford Store for over 40 years. His passion for the store, his staff, and the loyal community he served was unwavering, and his warm presence behind the counter will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Bill was predeceased by his beloved wife, Edna, with whom he shared many cherished years. He leaves behind his loving children, Chad (Steph) and Cori (Jason), and was a devoted grandfather to Chase, Ellie (Evan), and Piper, who brought him endless pride and joy.

A die-hard Toronto Maple Leafs fan, Bill held onto hope for "next season" with a cold Coors Light in hand. He was known for his loyalty, his sense of humor, and his deep commitment to family, friends, and community. His legacy will live on in the stories shared across the store counter, in the laughter of his grandchildren, and in the heart of West Guilford. He will be remembered for his quiet strength and generosity.

A Memorial Visitation will be held at the West Guilford Community Centre, 1061 Kennisis Lake Rd., West Guilford, Ontario K0M 2S0 on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 from 12:00 o'clock noon until the time of tributes at 2:00 pm. Light snacks and refreshments to follow. Cremation has taken place.

In lieu of flowers and memorial donations, the family asks that you raise a glass, share a story, or simply be kind to your neighbour — just as Bill would have done.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Tim Bryant

Passed away peacefully at his cottage in Minden on Friday, July 4, 2025 after a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 65.

Beloved son of the late Gwen and Bob Bryant. Dear brother of Todd (Cheryl) and Ted (Terri), uncle of Nikki (Cody), Charlie (Sam), Tyler "TJ" (Zac), Scott (Meghan), Sarah (Coltin) and great uncle of Carter, Catherine and Ivadell. Fondly remembered by Tiffany Weeks (Mike Watson), Charlene Angle, Marianne Wooley, Austin Copeland, and also by his team at Temuss.

The family would like to thank Dr. Jeffrey Rothenstein at Lakeridge Health Oshawa and Tim's nurse Susan Ross for all the support and care.

A Memorial Gathering to Celebrate Tim's Life will be held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Saturday, July 19, 2025 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to Lakeridge Health Oshawa or to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.

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OBITUARY

In Loving Memory of

Mildred "Millie" Hill

Passed away peacefully with family by her side at the Haliburton Hospital on Friday, June 20, 2025 at the age of 96.

Beloved wife of the late Keith Hill (2014). Dear mother of Steven (Wendy Porter), Jon (Susan), Kathy Sweeney (Paul Dillon), predeceased by her sons Andrew and Daniel. Loving Gramma of Amanda (Darren), Mike (Carla), Gwen (Rueben) and Andrew. Loving Great Gramma of Cooper, Charlotte, Nathan, and Makenna. Fondly remembered by Riley Dillon (Tirelo), Lone and Eana, and Liam Dillon (Liz). Predeceased by her brothers Harold Parker and Al Parker. Lovingly remembered by Jean Neville, and cherished neighbours Adiya and Keetyn Mills, and also by her many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Friends are invited to a Memorial Gathering to Celebrate Mildred's Life at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden K0M 2K0 on Saturday, July 26th , 2025 from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm.

A Private Family Graveside Service will be held at the Ingoldsby Pioneer Cemetery. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or to the Help A Village Effort (H.A.V.E.) would be appreciated by the family.

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Highlander puzzles

Climate Change

by Barbara Olson
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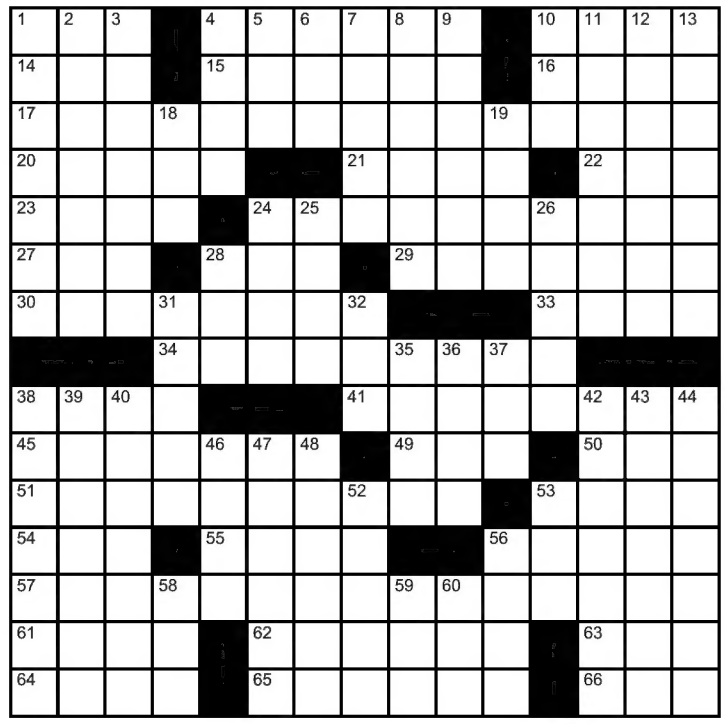

Across

1 Down under bouncer, slangily
4 Calls off
10 Bear in the stars
14 Biblical place with no room
15 "The Sopranos" henchman
16 It's a gas in Vegas
17 Stretched out atop an Atlantic fishing boat?
20 John in Britain?
21 On ___(operating by itself)
22 Many a map line: Abbr.
23 Month/day/___
24 Prince song about plum-coloured ice pellets falling from the sky?
27 Piece of work
28 "Real Men Don't ___ Quiche" (book satirizing masculinity)
29 Pickup artist's prey
30 Longtime lovers
33 Magellan and Bering, e.g.: Abbr.
34 Solar rocks dropping from above?
38 Non-profits' TV spots, e.g.
41 Rubber-necker
45 Words before a simple favour, maybe
49 U.S. "z"
50 Chinese dynasty head: Abbr.
51 Hanging janglers activated by precipitation?
53 "___ ain't broke, ..."
54 Ship rope or chain
55 "... can't believe ___ the whole thing!"
56 LaBelle, Lupone or Page
57 Roma dehydrated in a hurricane?
61 Stake that sounds like a relative
62 Figure on a T4 slip
63 Stimpy's chihuahua chum
64 Frankenstein's aide: Var.
65 Struck with horror
66 Many "House" characters, for short

Down

1 Pricey steaks
2 Poised for action
3 No longer waiting in the wings
4 Journalistic bias
5 Pink-slip
6 Something underfoot or overhead?
7 "Are you calling me ___?"
8 Sheets of gorgeous wallpaper?
9 Accept a lower-status lover
10 French feminine "one"
11 Bend, as with a prism
12 Having more chimney gunk
13 The "A" of LAX
18 Seoul's land: Abbr.
19 Used a weeding tool
24 Ibuprofen target
25 Off-road vehicles, for short
26 Loose lady
28 Univ. URL ending
31 Guilty ___ (totally at fault)
32 The Blues, on NHL scoreboards
35 ___ charm (be super suave)
36 Verbal head-shakes
37 Squeak by, with "out"
38 Not the entire distance
39 Doing in, Samson-style
40 Not natural for
42 What a southpaw throws with
43 Left out
44 Sunroof, tinted windows, leather seats, etc.
46 It turns litmus paper red
47 Islamic law
48 Passing forged cheques
52 Lake setting of a 1987 Accord
53 Helen Reddy's "___ Woman"
56 Slam performer
58 Van follower, in Dutch names
59 ___ good deed
60 Brand ownership symbols

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GARDENING FOR LIFE

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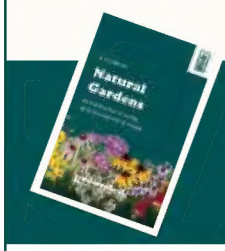

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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			2	5				
5		9	1					
		8			2			1
		6	3		5		9	
	9			8	1		3	
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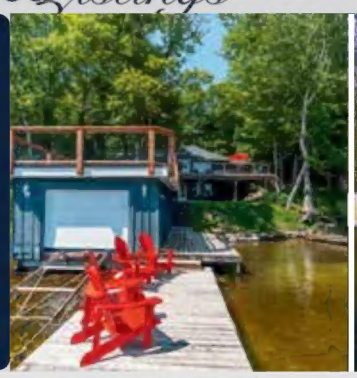
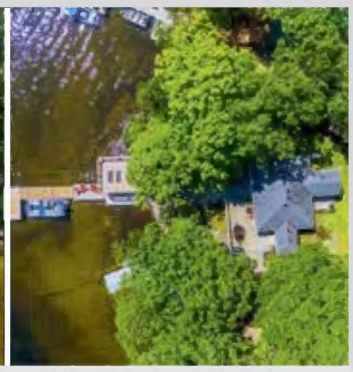
Featured Listings

6+2 | 3 | 3+1 | 169ft





Private retreat on Little Boshkung Lake. 3 bdrm+den, 2-bath main house, 3 bdrm+den+ 1 bath guest cottage, triple+single insulated & heated garages, car hoist, boathouse, and 169' of south-facing shoreline. WOW!! What a package!

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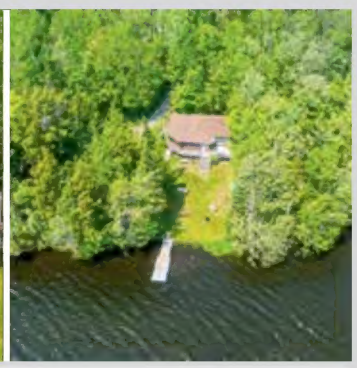
Little Boshkung Lake

3+1 | 3 | 1.5 acres

3bd+den, 3-bath bungalow with many recents upgrades: ensuite, finished basement, wet bar, & more. This home is move-in ready with modern comforts, just 15 minutes from Haliburton or Minden and close to trails.

$600,000
Ritchie Falls Road, Minden

3 | 1 | 170ft



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$625,000
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3 | 1 | 2

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$520,000
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